

In 1922, appointed by the "Pro-Cemetery" committee, the sculptor Giannino Castiglioni generously offered his art for the new arrangement of the graveyard.

We owe to him the two polygonal spaces in the hall, the ossuary-chapel and every internal and external decoration.

Particularly interesting are the Praying Angels, on the hall's walls.

The friezes that adorn it are filled with Christian symbology of Passion, Death and Resurrection. Beside the new arrangement, it was added the realisation of the Micheli, Balbiani Sigurtà chapels in 1929, Spada's in 1930 and Costa's in 1944.

In the Balbiani Sigurtà's niche, the author also executed the Angel of Life and Death, on the entrance's sides.

In the past people could also admire the "Our lady of the passion flower", currently conserved at City Hall.

Pepita Spada's grave was inspired by the parietal tomb, that belongs to the Italian tradition in 3/400 a.C.

The chapel's bottom wall welcomes the marble sarcophagus with the deceased lying, while two chubby "putto" act as telamons. The pictorial matrix inflections define the modeling of the female figure, accentuated by a soft and elegant line of the drapery, while the expression of the face is animated by a supernatural sweetness.

The History

Lierna has ancient origins, probably Celtic. Later it became a Roman settlement and, according to some sources, perhaps there used to be villa that belonged to Pliny the Younger.

It is thought that the Longobardic queen Theodolinda had lived for a period in the castle tower.

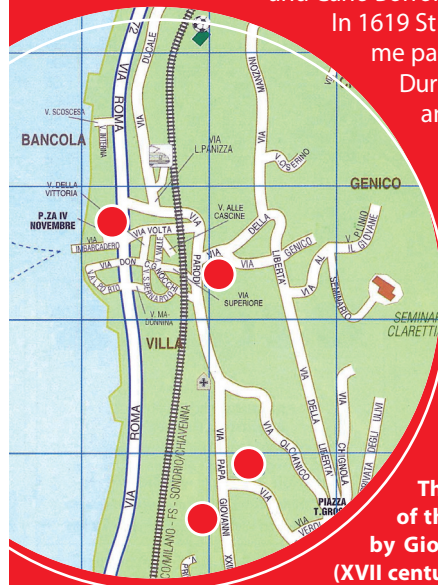
The first notary deed is dated in 854.

The village, feud of the St Dionigi Monastery in Milan, from 1035 to 1202 was contested between Milan and Como, by the families Visconti and Torriani, until it was won by Varenna. In 1499 it passed to Marchesino Stanga and in 1533 was dominated by the Sfrondati, feudatories of the Riviera, until 1788.

It is remarkable that in 1500 has been the home of Gian Giacomo Medici, brother of Angelo, the future Pope Pio IV and Carlo Borromeo's nephew.

In 1619 St Ambrogio Church became parish and it was widened.

During the second half of 800 and the first years of 900 many people from Lierna migrated in South America (Argentina and Uruguay), where they distinguished themselves in industrial, agricultural and manufacture activities.



mill.

Lierna has one of the most beautiful beaches of the Lake of Como, "Riva Bianca" in the "Castello" area.



Comune di
Lierna



Museum
Giannino Castiglioni
Widespread...
in the territory of Lierna

Must see

The Castle, the Holy Virgin of the Rosary, with paintings by Giovanni Battista Macolino (XVII century) and Genico's olive oil



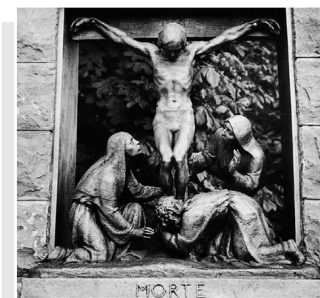

Regione Lombardia
Cultura



Museum Giannino Castiglioni

Widespread... in the territory of Lierna

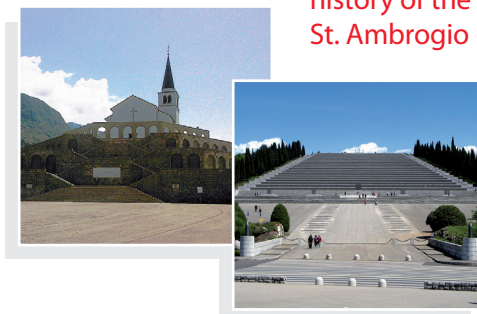
Giannino Castiglioni (1884 - 1971) is the most prominent of the many artists who have stayed in Lierna. The museum dedicated to him is currently under construction and will be home to the plaster casts which his heirs so generously donated to the municipal authorities. Born in Milan in 1884, he studied at the Brera and during his long career took part in exhibitions in Italy and abroad. A painter in his youth, he later became exclusively focused on sculpture and was extremely prolific, producing about 700 works including the monumental sculptures for the Houses of Parliament in Montevideo, the statue of Christ the King in the Catholic University of Milan and that of Dante in the courtyard of the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, not to mention countless funeral monuments in the Monumental Cemetery in Milan or the Monument to the War Dead in Lecco and Mandello del Lario. Castiglioni was also involved in the construction of the war cemeteries in Redipuglia, Grappa, Caporetto, Zara, Pola and Timau and coined many medals to commemorate famous historic figures. He first came to Lierna in the early years of the 20th century and had a studio in via Roma where he worked on the reconstruction of the local cemetery. Here he designed the central church of San Michele and the sculptures and bas reliefs for the chapels of the Micheli, Balbiani, Spada and Costa families.



His works are conserved in the Cemetery, in IV Novembre Place, at the City Hall and at "La Casa delle Associazioni". On the state highway there still is the studio that the artist inhabited until his death.

The studio-house is located along the street that crosses Lierna and continues to Colico. Now private property, it used to hold many pieces of art of the artist, since Castiglioni worked and lived here since 1927.

In this studio were conceived and partially realized many art works, such as the two-parts door of Milan's Duomo (Cathedral), that illustrate the history of the local bishop St. Ambrogio (1927).



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